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General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

26th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 16 October 2007, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 112

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2007.

The five outgoing non-permanent members are the following: the Congo, Ghana, Peru, Qatar and Slovakia. Those five States cannot be re-elected. Their names, therefore, should not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include in the year 2008 the following States: Belgium, Indonesia, Italy, Panama and South Africa. The names of those States, therefore, should also not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in the year 2008, two are from Africa and Asia, one is from Latin America and the Caribbean and two are from Western Europe and other States.

Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII), of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: three from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe and one from Latin America and the Caribbean. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the three States to be elected from Africa and Asia, two should be from Africa and one from Asia.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairpersons of the respective regional groups of the following. For the three vacant seats from among the African and Asian States, there are three endorsed candidates, namely, Burkina Faso, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Viet Nam. For the one vacant seat from among the Eastern European States, there are two candidates, namely, Croatia and the Czech Republic. For the one vacant seat from among the Latin America

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and Caribbean States, there are two candidates, namely, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

I would also like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the time of the conduct of the election. Please be reminded that during the voting process, all campaigning should cease in the General Assembly Hall. That means in particular that once the meeting has begun, no more campaign material can be distributed inside the Hall. All delegates are also requested to remain at their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner. I thank members for their cooperation.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B" and "C" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asian States, the names of the three States for which they wish to vote; on the ballot papers marked "B", for the Eastern European States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote; and on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if all the names of the Member States on that ballot do not belong to the relevant region. If a ballot paper contains names of Member States that do not belong to that region, the ballot remains valid, but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Stastoli (Albania), Ms. Dei Águila-Castillo (Guatemala), Mr. Jatmiko (Indonesia), Ms. Uushona (Namibia) and Mr. Flueck (Switzerland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.30 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
Burkina Faso	185
Viet Nam	183
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	178
Mauritania	2
Senegal	1

Group B — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	4
Number of Members voting:	186
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Croatia	95
Czech Republic	91

Group C — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	188
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Costa Rica	116
Dominican Republic	72

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following States were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2008: Burkina Faso, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Viet Nam.

The President: There remain two seats to be filled: one from among the Eastern European States and one from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot. This second round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Croatia and the Czech Republic, and the two States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. That is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "B" and "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B", for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Croatia or the Czech Republic, or if they contain the names of more than one State. Ballot papers marked "C", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Costa Rica or the Dominican Republic, or if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Stastoli (Albania), Ms. Del Águila-Castillo (Guatemala), Mr. Jatmiko (Indonesia), Ms. Uushona (Namibia) and Mr. Flueck (Switzerland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	187
Required two-thirds majority:	125
Number of votes obtained:	
Croatia	106
Czech Republic	81

Group C — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	1
Number of Members voting:	189
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Costa Rica	119
Dominican Republic	70

There remain two seats to be filled: one from among the Eastern European States and one from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

We shall therefore proceed to the second restricted ballot. This third round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Croatia and the Czech Republic, and the two States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. That is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

The representative of the Dominican Republic has requested the floor.

Mr. Del Rosario Ceballos (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Dominican Government, headed by Mr. Leonel Fernández, of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic, Mr. Carlos Morales Troncoso, and of the Dominican people and on my own behalf, I wish to inform the Assembly that the Dominican Republic is withdrawing from this election to clear the way for the brotherly country of Costa Rica.

I should like to make a few additional comments.

Here, before the Assembly, the Dominican Republic — my Government, my President, my Minister for Foreign Affairs and all Dominicans — wishes to express to the world Latin American solidarity with Costa Rica, a country that we love and with whom we have always been brothers, together with all of Latin America and the Caribbean. Naturally, my Government wishes to thank all those countries that voted for us in a spirit of brotherhood and, above all, of Latin American and global unity. Now, more than ever before, in the world in which we live, which is threatened by so many difficulties, the Government of President Leonel Fernández is further demonstrating its historic and continental vision of brotherhood among all peoples of Latin America and the rest of the world.

The President: I thank the representative of the Dominican Republic for his cooperation.

The representative of the Czech Republic has requested the floor.

Mr. Pojar (Czech Republic): I would like to congratulate Croatia, as it deserves the seat. We are also withdrawing our candidacy.

The President: I thank the representative of the Czech Republic for his cooperation.

The representative of Croatia has requested the floor.

Ms. Grabar-Kitarović (Croatia): On behalf of the Republic of Croatia, I would like to thank all members for their votes and for their confidence in Croatia. I thank the Czech Republic for pulling out of the third round and for giving Croatia the opportunity to become a member of the Security Council for the first time.

The President: I thank the representative of Croatia.

I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica.

Mr. Stagno Ugarte (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like at the outset to thank all United Nations Member States, because I believe that today we have seen demonstrations of international solidarity, which are rare. In particular, I should like to thank the brotherly people and Government of the Dominican Republic for the magnanimous gesture of solidarity in withdrawing. I assure them that Costa Rica is grateful for that gesture; we will always remember it. We are now prepared to work with them on issues of importance and sensitivity. The brotherly country of the Dominican Republic can count on Costa Rica's full support. I believe the applause that it received attests to the respect and affection in which the Dominican Republic is held.

Many thanks to all those countries that believed in Costa Rica; we hope that we can meet the expectations placed in us. We congratulate both candidates.

The President: I thank the Foreign Minister of Costa Rica.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "B" and "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "B", for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Croatia or the Czech Republic or if they contain the names of more than one State. Ballot papers marked "C", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Costa Rica or the Dominican Republic or if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Stastoli (Albania), Ms. Del Águila-Castillo (Guatemala), Mr. Jatmiko (Indonesia), Ms. Uushona (Namibia) and Mr. Flueck (Switzerland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.45 p.m. and resumed at 1.05 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Eastern European States	
Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	4
Number of Members voting:	185
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Croatia	184
Czech Republic	1

Group C — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	9
Number of Members voting:	180
Required two-thirds majority:	120
Number of votes obtained:	
Costa Rica	179
Dominican Republic	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Costa Rica and Croatia were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning i January 2008.

The President: I believe that this is a good day for the United Nations and for the General Assembly. The spirit of cooperation, goodwill and mutual trust demonstrated today is particularly noteworthy. In that respect, I would Like to thank the delegations of the Czech Republic and the Dominican Republic for their gracious cooperation.

The following five States have thus been elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2008: Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Viet Nam. I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Security Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 112.

Before adjourning this meeting, I would like to inform members that the second meeting of the General Committee will take place on Friday, 19 October 2007, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 4, to consider requests for the inclusion of four additional items, contained in documents A/62/231, A/62/232, A/62/233 and A/62/234. The Committee will also consider the question of the inclusion and allocation of the item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte".

As members are aware, the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development is going to take place on 23 and 24 October 2007, and I have requested the five regional groups to nominate co-chairs for the six round tables.

In the absence of nominations by the respective regional groups by 6 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, 17 October, I will proceed with the nomination of co-chairs for the six round tables in accordance with the normal proceeding, taking into consideration the balance in regional geographical distribution and balanced representation of all stakeholders. The co-chairs will be selected from among the highest level of those participating in the meeting. I trust that all regional groups will strive to present their candidates before that time to allow us to take them into consideration in the organization of this high-level event.

Before adjourning this meeting, I would like to make an announcement regarding the Stand Up and Speak Out against Poverty event to promote the Millennium Development Goals, which will take place on Wednesday, 17 October 2007, at 1 p.m. on the North Lawn. That event, which will be led by the Secretary-General, will mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. All are invited to attend.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.